

**Why is this data unique?**

While the Arizona Department of Education tracks and provides a snapshot of overall student achievement, this data, known as the Arizona Growth Model, measures student progress from one year to the next in the context of a student's "academic peers." The Arizona Growth Model compares each student's performance to students in the same grade throughout Arizona who had similar AIMS scores in past years and calculates a percentile rank based on change in test scores relative to these peers. Students are compared to peers from year to year so the results are not skewed by income levels, parental involvement, race or gender.

This data uses multiple years of a student's test scores to show how each student is progressing from year to year and to estimate the student's expected future academic performance. This data will be provided annually at the beginning of the school year for teachers to develop a plan to meet individual student needs.

**Why is it important?** Using growth percentile data, teachers and schools can determine if a student made typical growth compared to similar students. They can spot a student's weak areas in order to give the student extra help to meet state standards. Students who meet or exceed state standards can forge ahead in learning, staying on track to college and a productive career.

The Arizona Growth Model shines a spotlight on Arizona's most effective schools – district and charter – that produce the highest sustained academic rates of growth in students. This helps parents, schools and policymakers to focus on quality schools moving students academically forward and those schools that may need intervention as students struggle to learn and understand state standards in math and reading.

**How can Teachers and Schools use the Growth Model?**

Teachers and schools can determine if a student made typical growth compared to students with similar growth patterns in a year. Looking at year-to-year results in math and reading, teachers can spot trends in a student's learning so they can encourage more, faster growth or act quickly to stop a downward drift. It also allows teachers to identify students that may be scoring low but have grown dramatically in the past – requiring different strategies than a student with low, flat scores.

Principals can see trends by teachers to differentiate professional development.

Teachers and schools can also answer the following questions:

- Did a student make a year's worth of progress in a year?
- Is the student growing appropriately towards meeting state standards?
- Is the student growing as much in reading as math?
- Did the student grow as much this year as last year?

**What data is used in the Growth Model?**

The Arizona Growth Model uses the yearly AIMS scale score for every student in the state. This volume of data allows for clear patterns in student level growth to be compared across individuals. This is the highest level of detail in any other growth model used nationally, to date. The Arizona Growth Model is a replication of the Colorado growth model, developed by Damian Betebenner of the National Center for Assessment, and used for state-wide accountability. Massachusetts has also adopted this growth model for its statewide system.